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Smoking & Tobacco Abstracts & News

STAN Bulletin

11th Edition

2-July-2012

Editor's note: The [Tobacco Tactics](#) website documents the [Institute of Economic Affairs'](#) (IEA) founding by BAT and its '[His: Close Ties with the Tobacco Industry](#)', to be kept in mind when reading [The Telegraph coverage](#) of the IEA report stating that obese and smokers are "less of a burden on the NHS than the healthy who live longer". A reminder here that the use of commas and spaces generally indicates the presence of more than one story, study or report link on a single 'In the News' study link in square brackets, ie [[Addiction: Mason](#)], indicates recent news coverage of a study highlighted in a previous edit of this bulletin.

Stan Shatenstein

In the News:

- Costa Rica: [Tobacco Control Law Pushed Forward, SHS Ban Leads to Outdoor 'Mess'](#)
 - NZ: [Government could face lawsuit over duty-free cigarette ban](#); [Health groups urge elimination](#)
- Philippines: [BIR: Health groups laud revenue policy on cigarette stamp security, FCTC cited, respected](#)
- UK: [JTI: MP opponents of cigarette plain-packaging accepted hospitality from tobacco giant](#)
 - UK: [Institute of Economic Affairs: NHS: Report argues obese & smokers less of a burden than longer-lived health](#)
 - UK: [Cancer Research: People still display ignorance of many cancers caused by smoking](#)
 - UK: [Cancer Research: The answer is plain: Mother & son back ban on colourful cigarette branding](#)
 - UK: [Smoking ban has reduced asthma & heart attacks](#); [Independent: Opinion: Best way to deal with addiction](#)
 - UK: [The Telegraph: Opinion: The smoking ban was right: Author loves Big Brother](#)
- UK: [Surgeon calls for smoking ban in cars when children are present](#)
- UK: [iQuit: Tailored advice no extra help to smokers in study](#) [[Addiction: Mason](#)]
- US: [Business Week: Opinion: Trans-Pacific Partnership: On the Wrong Side in the War Against Smoking](#)
- US: NY: Haverstraw: [Tobacco giants & convenience stores sue village over product display ban](#)
- US: [Lung Cancer Alliance: Group launches attention-getting ad campaign: 'No one deserves to die'](#)

Noteworthy:

"To achieve policy influence, TTCs [transnational tobacco companies] targeted key government officials at both national and EU as they have done elsewhere, sometimes exploiting a lack of political and policy expertise in tobacco excise as an opportunity to "educate" politicians. Our interviewees suggest this tactic continues and extends to high-level politicians with whom the industry appears to enjoy significant contact and influence. Political donations to "friendly" political parties were used behind cover, with transparency of political funding identified as an ongoing concern. Other tactics include trying to ensure favourable media coverage and commissioning third-party research to boost credibility of the industry claims; again, tactics noted elsewhere." [Shirane

In this Edition:

- Am J Addict - Brook: US: Psychosocial Predictors of Nicotine Dependence among Mid-60s Women
- Am J Med Sci - Javed: Prediabetes & Periodontal Disease in Habitual Smokers & Nonsmokers
- AJPH - Aubin: Early Life Origins of Adult Disease & Maternal Smoking During Pregnancy
- Ann Rev Genom Hum Genet - Wang: Genetics of Substance Dependence
- BMC Cancer - Braisch: Germany: Bavaria: TRSPC/TRFPC: Risk of tobacco-related multiple primary cancers
- BMC Pediatr - DiFranza: RSV: TSE as infant & young child respiratory syncytial virus risk factor: Literature review
- BMC Pub Health - Catley: Motivational Interviewing for encouraging quit attempts: RCT study protocol
- CC&C - Diver: US: NHL: Cigarette smoking & non-Hodgkin lymphoid neoplasms in a large cohort
- Crim Behav Ment Health - Ellis: Malaysia: Maternal pregnancy smoking & self-reported offspring delinquency
- Drug Alc Depend - Kasza: ITC-4 Country Survey: Smoke-free bar policies & smoker alcohol consumption
- Eur Resp J - Mutepe: Cigarette smoke condensate effects on pneumococcal biofilm formation & pneumolysin
- Int Forum Allergy Rhinol - Reh: Tobacco smoke impact on chronic rhinosinusitis: literature review
- JAAD - Ladizinski: US: Mucocutaneous complications of smoking cessation therapies
- J Health Econ - Jensen: US: Staying in school, not working & teen smoking & drinking prevention
- JMIR - Smit: NL Web-based multiple tailored smoking cessation program effectiveness: RCT
- J Neural Transm - Sun: China: NRT: Functional COMT Val108/Met polymorphism & smoking cessation
- Maturitas - Hayatbakhsh: Australia: Cigarette smoking & age of menopause: Large prospective study
- MJA - Chapman/George: NRT: evidence from observational studies versus clinical trials
- Mov Disord - Quik: PD: Nicotine as potential neuroprotective agent for Parkinson's disease
 - Neurol - Postuma/Sullivan: Environmental risk factors for REM sleep behavior disorder
- Pac Health Dialog - Tautolo: NZ: Pacific Islands: Smoking prevalence & concordance among mothers & fathers
- Perspect Pub Health - Gordon: UK: Scotland: Professional training to reduce children's home SHS exposure
- Pharm Biochem Behav - Poltavski: Lower-dose transdermal nicotine facilitates cognitive performance in smokers
- Placenta - van Oppenraaij: NL: Effect of smoking on early chorionic villous vascularisation
- PLoS Med - Shirane: Czech Republic: BAT/PM: TI Manipulation of Excise & Advertising Policies: Document Analysis
- Psych Addict Behav - Phua: US: Social Norms & Identification & Smoking Cessation Self-Efficacy
- Psychol Med - Bjørngaard: Norway: HUNT: Causal role of smoking in anxiety & depression: Mendelian analysis
- Psychopharm - Otsuru: Effects of acute nicotine on auditory change-related cortical responses
- Stroke - Li: Perinatal Nicotine Exposure Increases Vulnerability of Hypoxic-Ischemic Brain Injury
- Thorax - Wu: China: Smoking, acute mountain sickness & altitude acclimatisation: cohort study
- TCPHEE - Krasovsky: Belarus: Dynamics of smoking prevalence & tobacco products market
- Transl Gastrointest Cancer - Jensen: Nicotine mechanisms in development & progression of GI cancers

Abstracts:**Psychosocial Predictors of Nicotine Dependence among Women during Their Mid-Sixties**

[Am J Addict](#). 2012 Jul;21(4):302-12. doi: 10.1111/j.1521-0391.2012.00237.x. Epub 2012 Apr 12.

[Brook JS](#), [Zhang C](#), [Brook DW](#), [Koppel J](#), [Whiteman M](#).

Abstract

Although there is considerable research demonstrating the prospective association between earlier maladaptive personal attributes and later nicotine dependence, there is less work on the psychosocial mediators of this relationship. Maladaptive personal attributes appear in the form of depression, anxiety, and interpersonal sensitivity. This study was designed to assess the prospective relationship between earlier maladaptive personal attributes (mean age = 40) and later nicotine dependence (age = 65.2) within an understudied female community sample. The participants were given self-administered questionnaires. The results supported by which earlier maladaptive personal attributes predicted later nicotine dependence through several indirect pathways. In adult cigarette smoking, several domains mediated the relation of earlier maladaptive personal attributes and later nicotine dependence. These domains included internal factors (ie, later maladaptive personal attributes), interpersonal factors (ie, marital/partner characteristics), and later contextual factors (ie, family financial difficulty). Our multidimensional longitudinal findings have important implications for the prevention and treatment of nicotine dependence. The results identify earlier and later significant psychosocial risk factors to

targeted, and suggest the timing of interventions to reduce or eliminate nicotine dependence.

<http://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/10.1111/j.1521-0391.2012.00237.x/abstract>

Also:

Physical activity as a protective factor in relapse following smoking cessation in participants with a depressive disorder

<http://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/10.1111/j.1521-0391.2012.00242.x/abstract>

The Role of Emotional Nonacceptance in the Relation between Depression and Recent Cigarette Smoking

<http://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/10.1111/j.1521-0391.2012.00238.x/abstract>

Use of the Patient Health Questionnaire-2 to Predict Suicidal Ideations in Patients Taking Varenicline

<http://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/10.1111/j.1521-0391.2012.00243.x/abstract>

Periodontal Disease in Habitual Cigarette Smokers and Nonsmokers With and Without Prediabetes

[Am J Med Sci.](#) 2012 Jun 10. [Epub ahead of print]

[Javed F](#), [Al-Askar M](#), [Samaranayake LP](#), [Al-Hezaimi K](#).

Abstract

INTRODUCTION:

Prediabetes and habitual cigarette smoking are significant risk factors contributing to periodontal disease. The aim was to a clinical and radiological markers of periodontal disease in habitual cigarette smokers and nonsmokers with and without pred

METHODS:

Sixty-eight individuals with prediabetes (test group; 34 smokers and 34 nonsmokers) and 68 medically healthy individuals (c group; 34 smokers and 34 nonsmokers) were included. Sociodemographic information, duration of smoking habit and number cigarettes smoked daily were recorded through a questionnaire. Fasting blood glucose levels and periodontal inflammatory c (plaque index [PI], bleeding on probing [BOP] and probing pocket depth [PPD] of 4 to <6 mm and ≥ 6 mm) were recorded. In groups, marginal bone loss (MBL) was measured on digital panoramic radiographs.

RESULTS:

Cigarette smokers and nonsmokers in the test group had significantly higher fasting blood glucose level when compared with cigarette smokers in the control group ($P < 0.001$). In the test group, there was no significant difference in PI, BOP, PPD (4 mm and ≥ 6 mm) and MBL among cigarette smokers and nonsmokers. Cigarette smokers in the control group had significant PI ($P < 0.001$), PPD (4 to <6 mm; $P < 0.001$), PPD ≥ 6 mm ($P < 0.01$) and MBL ($P < 0.05$) than nonsmokers. BOP was significantly reduced in smokers when compared with nonsmokers in the control group ($P < 0.001$).

CONCLUSIONS:

Cigarette smokers without prediabetes exhibit significantly severe periodontal disease than nonsmokers. In subjects with prediabetes, the severity of periodontal disease seems to be overshadowed by the hyperglycemic state, obscuring the effect of habitual smoking.

<http://journals.lww.com/amjmedsci/pages/articleviewer.aspx?year=9000&issue=00000&article=99295&type=abstract>

Letters

Early Life Origins of Adult Disease and Maternal Smoking During Pregnancy

[Am J Public Health.](#) 2012 Jun 14. [Epub ahead of print]

[Aubin HJ](#), [Berlin I](#), [Reynaud M](#).

Abstract

Johnson and Shoeni (sic) examined the relation between low birth weight (LBW) and childhood family socioeconomic disadvantage and disease onset in adulthood.(1) They report that LBW independently predicted asthma, hypertension, diabetes, and cardiovascular diseases by age 50 years. Disease prevalence was influenced also by childhood socioeconomic (SES) status. We conclude that these findings are consistent with the fetal origins hypothesis, which posits that adverse in utero influences increase the risk of disease later in life. We would like to stress the likely mediating effect of maternal smoking during pregnancy. In the study by Johnson and Shoeni, the smoking variable, parental smoking, increased disease risk in univariate but not in multivariate analyses probably because it lacks specification (i.e., it did not distinguish which parent was a smoker and whether the mother smoked or not during her pregnancy).

<http://ajph.aphapublications.org/doi/abs/10.2105/AJPH.2012.300650>

Referenced AJPH study:

Early-Life Origins of Adult Disease: National Longitudinal Population-Based Study of the United States

<http://ajph.aphapublications.org/doi/abs/10.2105/AJPH.2011.300252>

The Genetics of Substance Dependence

[Annu Rev Genomics Hum Genet](#). 2012 Jun 11. [Epub ahead of print]

[Wang JC](#), [Kapoor M](#), [Goate AM](#).

Abstract

A large segment of the population suffers from addiction to alcohol, smoking, or illicit drugs. Not only do substance abuse and addiction pose a threat to health, but the consequences of addiction also impose a social and economic burden on families, communities, and nations. Genome-wide linkage and association studies have been used for addiction research with varying degrees of success. The most well-established genetic factors associated with alcohol dependence are in the genes encoding alcohol dehydrogenase (ADH), which oxidizes alcohol to acetaldehyde, and aldehyde dehydrogenase (ALDH2), which oxidizes acetaldehyde to acetate. Recently emerging genetic studies have linked variants in the genes encoding the $\alpha 3$, $\alpha 5$, and $\alpha 4$ nicotinic acetylcholine receptor subunits to smoking risk. However, the influence of these well-established genetic variants accounts for only a small fraction of the heritability of alcohol and nicotine addiction, and it is likely that there are both common and rare risk variants yet to be identified. Newly developed DNA sequencing technologies could potentially advance the detection of rare variants with a large effect on addiction risk.

<http://www.annualreviews.org/doi/abs/10.1146/annurev-genom-090711-163844>

Risk of tobacco-related multiple primary cancers in Bavaria, Germany

BMC Cancer 2012, **12:250** doi:10.1186/1471-2407-12-250

Published: **18 June 2012**

Ulrike Braisch, Martin Meyer and Martin Radespiel-Tröger

Abstract

Background

With the prospect of increasing prevalence of cancer, the issue of multiple primary cancers becomes more relevant. The aim of this study was to estimate the risk of developing a tobacco-related subsequent primary cancer (TRSPC) in persons with a tobacco-related first primary cancer (TRFPC) compared with the general population in Bavaria, Germany.

Methods

Using data from the Population-Based Cancer Registry Bavaria, we analyzed TRFPC and TRSPC diagnosed in Bavaria between

and 2008 to estimate the relative and absolute risk of developing TRSPC using standardized incidence ratios (SIR) and excess absolute risks (EAR).

Results

121,631 TRFPC in men and 75,886 respective cancers in women were registered, which in 2.5% of male and 1.2% of female patients were followed by at least one TRSPC. In both males and females, the highest increased risks compared to the general population were found within the group of cancer in the mouth/pharynx, oesophagus, larynx, and lung/bronchus.

Conclusions

With respect to cancer in the mouth/pharynx, oesophagus, larynx, lung/bronchus, kidney, urinary bladder and urinary tract, was confirmed as a shared risk factor based on our finding of mutually significantly increased risks of TRSPC. The results of study illustrate the importance of smoking cessation and of continued follow-up care especially of smokers with the aforementioned TRFPC to detect TRSPC at an early stage.

<http://www.biomedcentral.com/1471-2407/12/250/abstract>

<http://www.biomedcentral.com/content/pdf/1471-2407-12-250.pdf>

Note: Open Access. Full text PDF freely available from link immediately above.

Systematic literature review assessing tobacco smoke exposure as a risk factor for serious respiratory syncytial virus disease among infants and young children

BMC Pediatrics 2012, **12:81** doi:10.1186/1471-2431-12-81

Published: **21 June 2012**

Joseph R DiFranza, Anthony Masaquel, Amy M Barrett, Ann D Colosia and Parthiv J Mahadevia

Abstract

Background

The role of environmental tobacco smoke (ETS) exposure as a risk factor for serious respiratory syncytial virus (RSV) disease among infants and young children has not been clearly established. This systematic review was conducted to explore the association between ETS exposure and serious RSV disease in children younger than 5 years, including infants and young children with risk for serious RSV disease.

Methods

A systematic review of English-language studies using the PubMed and EMBASE databases (1990-2009) was performed to identify studies that evaluated ETS as a potential risk factor for serious RSV illness. Studies assessing risk factors associated with hospitalization, emergency department visit, or physician visit due to RSV (based on laboratory confirmation of RSV or clinic diagnosis of RSV) in children under the age of 5 years were included.

Results

The literature search identified 30 relevant articles, categorized by laboratory confirmation of RSV infection (n = 14), clinical diagnosis of RSV disease (n = 8), and assessment of RSV disease severity (n = 8). Across these three categories of studies, at least one study in each category found that ETS exposure was associated with statistically significant increases in risk in multivariate or bivariate analysis, as follows: 1 of 14 studies on risk of hospitalization or ED visit for laboratory-confirmed RSV infection; 6 of 8 studies of RSV disease based on clinical diagnosis; and 5 of the 8 studies assessing severity of RSV as shown by hospitalization rates or degree of hypoxia. Also, 7 of 14 studies focused on populations of premature infants, and the majority (5 studies) found a significant association between ETS exposure and RSV risk in the multivariate or bivariate analyses.

Conclusion

We found ample evidence that ETS exposure places infants and young children at increased risk of hospitalization for RSV-attributable lower respiratory tract infection and increases the severity of illness among hospitalized children. Additional evidence is needed regarding the association of ETS exposure and outpatient RSV lower respiratory tract illness. Challenges and potential pitfalls of assessing ETS exposure in children are discussed.

<http://www.biomedcentral.com/1471-2431/12/81/abstract>
<http://www.biomedcentral.com/content/pdf/1471-2431-12-81.pdf>

Note: Open Access. Full text PDF freely available from link immediately above.

Motivational Interviewing for encouraging quit attempts among unmotivated smokers: Study protocol of a random controlled, efficacy trial

BMC Public Health 2012, 12:456 doi:10.1186/1471-2458-12-456
Published: **19 June 2012**

Delwyn Catley, Kari J Harris, Kathy Goggin, Kimber Richter, Karen Williams, Christi Patten, Ken Resnicow, Edward Ellerbe Andrea Bradley-Ewing, Domonique Malomo and Robin Liston

Abstract

Background

Although current clinical practice guidelines recommend Motivational Interviewing for use with smokers not ready to quit, the of evidence for its use is rated as not optimal. The purpose of the present study is to address key methodological limitations previous studies by ensuring fidelity in the delivery of the Motivational Interviewing intervention, using an attention-matched condition, and focusing on unmotivated smokers whom meta-analyses have indicated may benefit most from Motivational Interviewing. It is hypothesized that MI will be more effective at inducing quit attempts and smoking cessation at 6-month follow-up than brief advice to quit and an intensity-matched health education condition.

Methods

A sample of adult community resident smokers (N= 255) who report low motivation and readiness to quit are being randomized a 2:2:1 treatment allocation to Motivational Interviewing, Health Education, or Brief Advice. Over 6 months, participants in Motivational Interviewing and Health Education receive 4 individual counseling sessions and participants in Brief Advice receive one brief individual session at baseline. Rigorous monitoring and independent verification of fidelity will assure the counseling approach is distinct and delivered as planned. Participants complete surveys at baseline, week 12 and 6-month follow-up to assess demographics, smoking characteristics, and smoking outcomes. Participants who decide to quit are provided with a self-help to quitting, help with a quit plan, and free pharmacotherapy. The primary outcome is self-report of one or more quit attempts at least 24 hours between randomization and 6-month follow-up. The secondary outcome is biochemically confirmed 7-day point prevalence cessation at 6-month follow-up. Hypothesized mediators of the presumed treatment effect on quit attempts are perceived autonomy support and autonomous motivation. Use of pharmacotherapy is a hypothesized mediator of Motivational Interviewing's effect on cessation.

Discussion

This trial will provide the most rigorous evaluation to date of Motivational Interviewing's efficacy for encouraging unmotivated smokers to make a quit attempt. It will also provide effect-size estimates of MI's impact on smoking cessation to inform future trials and inform the clinical practice guidelines.

Trial registration ClinicalTrials.gov NCT01188018

<http://www.biomedcentral.com/1471-2458/12/456/abstract>
<http://www.biomedcentral.com/content/pdf/1471-2458-12-456.pdf>

Note: Open Access. Full text PDF freely available from link immediately above.

The association between cigarette smoking and non-Hodgkin lymphoid neoplasms in a large US cohort study

[Cancer Causes Control](#). 2012 Jun 12. [Epub ahead of print]

[Diver WR](#), [Patel AV](#), [Thun MJ](#), [Teras LR](#), [Gapstur SM](#).

Abstract

PURPOSE:

Results from studies of smoking and non-Hodgkin lymphoid neoplasms (NHL) are inconsistent. This study assessed whether inconsistency might be due to the heterogeneous nature of the disease, to different relationships in subpopulations such as men or to chance.

METHODS:

We examined cigarette smoking status, initiation, intensity, and duration in relation to the risk of NHL, and subtypes of NHL in men and women from the American Cancer Society Cancer Prevention Study II Nutrition Cohort. From 1992 to 2007, 1,926 NHL cases were identified among 152,958 subjects. Extended Cox regression was used to compute multivariable rate ratios (RR) and 95% confidence intervals (95% CI).

RESULTS:

The RR (95% CI) for current smoking associated with NHL incidence in women was 1.37 (1.04-1.81) and in men was 0.88 (0.61-1.19). Among current smokers, there was a positive relationship between years smoked and risk of NHL in women (p -trend = 0.001) but no association in men. In women, the positive associations with current smoking were strongest for follicular lymphoma (RR 1.75, 95% CI 1.20-3.77) and chronic lymphocytic leukemia/small lymphocyte lymphoma (RR 1.75, 95% CI 1.03-2.96). In men a combined, current smoking was associated with an increased risk of T-cell lymphoma and a decreased risk of diffuse large B-cell lymphoma.

CONCLUSIONS:

This study supports an association of current smoking with risk of NHL that varies by gender and subtype. Future studies should focus on differences by gender and disease subtype to better clarify the smoking and NHL relationship.

<http://www.springerlink.com/content/32k64771120h1243/>

Maternal smoking during pregnancy and self-reported delinquency by offspring

[Crim Behav Ment Health](#). 2012 Jun 13. doi: 10.1002/cbm.1828. [Epub ahead of print]

[Ellis L](#), [Widmayer A](#), [Das S](#).

Abstract

BACKGROUND:

Several studies have reported significant positive correlations between smoking during pregnancy by mothers and the involvement of their offspring in criminal/delinquent behaviour later in life, but these findings have been described as modest and the crime rates based on official conviction statistics.

AIMS:

We sought to verify this relationship and probe for more details on the basis of self-reported offending among college students.

METHODS:

Independently completed questionnaires were collected from 6332 students and their mothers. The students provided information about their delinquent acts, if any, according to eight categories. Their mothers provided retrospective reports of their smoking if any, during pregnancy.

FINDINGS:

Mothers who recalled having smoked during pregnancy were significantly more likely than non-smoking mothers to have offspring self-reported engaging in some types of delinquency. This relationship was more evident for female offspring than for male offspring and was most pronounced for illegal drug use by the offspring. There was, however, no relationship between offspring estimated number of cigarettes smoked by mothers, month of pregnancy when smoked or consistency of smoking throughout pregnancy.

CONCLUSION:

Overall, our study confirms that maternal smoking during pregnancy is associated with offspring involvement in delinquency, lack of critical timing or dose-response relationships between maternal smoking and later offspring delinquency cast doubt on possibility that the associations are due to teratogenic effects of tobacco smoke.

<http://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/10.1002/cbm.1828/abstract>

Smoke-free bar policies and smokers' alcohol consumption: Findings from the International Tobacco Control Four Country Survey

[Drug Alcohol Depend.](#) 2012 Jun 13. [Epub ahead of print]

[Kasza KA](#), [McKee SA](#), [Rivard C](#), [Hyland AJ](#).

Abstract

BACKGROUND:

Cigarette smoking and alcohol consumption are positively correlated, and the concurrent use of tobacco and alcohol exacerbates health risks associated with the singular use of either product. Indoor smoke-free policies have been effective in reducing smoking but little is known about any impact of these policies on drinking behavior. The purpose of this study was to evaluate the potential association between the implementation of smoke-free bar policies and smokers' alcohol consumption.

METHODS:

A prospective, multi-country cohort survey design was utilized. Participants were nationally representative samples of smokers from the United Kingdom, Australia, Canada, and the United States, who were interviewed as part of the International Tobacco Control Four Country Survey (ITC-4) in 2005, 2007, or 2008 (N=11,914). Changes in the frequency and amount of alcohol consumption were assessed as functions of change in the presence of smoke-free bar policies over time.

RESULTS:

Overall, changes in alcohol consumption were statistically indistinguishable between those whose bars became smoke-free and those whose bars continued to allow smoking. However, implementation of smoke-free policies was associated with small reductions in the amount of alcohol typically consumed by those who were classified as hazardous drinkers, along with small reductions in frequency of alcohol consumption among heavy smokers.

CONCLUSIONS:

Smoking bans in public places, which protect millions of non-smokers from the harmful effects of second-hand smoke, do not appear to be associated with sizable reductions in smokers' alcohol consumption in general, but may be associated with small reductions among subgroups.

<http://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/pii/S0376871612001858>

Also:

Substance use and sexual behavior among recent Hispanic immigrant adolescents: Effects of parent-adolescent differential acculturation and communication

<http://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/pii/S0376871612001834>

Effects of cigarette smoke condensate on pneumococcal biofilm formation and pneumolysin**Eur Respir J published 27 June 2012**, 10.1183/09031936.00213211

N.D. Mutepe, R. Cockeran, H.C. Steel, A.J. Theron, T.J. Mitchell, C. Feldman, and R. Anderson

Abstract

Although the well-recognised predisposition of cigarette smokers for development of severe pneumococcal disease may be attributable to impairment of local host defences, less is known about the direct effects of smoke exposure on airway pathogen virulence factors. In the current study, we have investigated the effects of cigarette smoke condensate (CSC) on biofilm formation by *Streptococcus pneumoniae*, as well as on the pore-forming activity of its major toxin, pneumolysin.

Biofilm formation following exposure of the pneumococcus to CSC (20–160 $\mu\text{g}\cdot\text{mL}^{-1}$) was measured using a crystal violet-based spectrophotometric procedure, while the pore-forming activity of recombinant pneumolysin was determined by a fura-2/AM-based spectrofluorimetric procedure to monitor the uptake of extracellular Ca^{2+} by isolated human neutrophils.

Exposure of the pneumococcus or pneumolysin to CSC resulted in significant dose-related augmentation of biofilm formation at 80 and 160 $\mu\text{g}\cdot\text{mL}^{-1}$) and substantial attenuation of the pore-forming interactions of pneumolysin, respectively.

Augmentation of biofilm formation and inactivation of pneumolysin as a consequence of smoking, are likely to favour microbial colonization and persistence, both being essential precursors of pneumococcal disease.

<http://erj.ersjournals.com/cgi/content/abstract/09031936.00213211v1>

Impact of tobacco smoke on chronic rhinosinusitis: a review of the literature**Int Forum Allergy Rhinol.** 2012 Jun 13. doi: 10.1002/alr.21054. [Epub ahead of print]

[Reh DD](#), [Higgins TS](#), [Smith TL](#).

Abstract**BACKGROUND:**

Environmental factors such as inhaled pollutants like cigarette smoke may play a significant role in diseases of the upper airway including chronic rhinosinusitis (CRS). The objectives of this review are to summarize prior studies that describe the correlation between active smoking and secondhand smoke (SHS) on CRS. We also review the pathophysiologic effects of cigarette smoke on sinonasal mucosa and discuss its impact on surgical outcomes of endoscopic sinus surgery (ESS).

METHODS:

A literature search was conducted of the PubMed database using the terms "sinusitis" or "rhinosinusitis" and "smoking." Additional search terms of "nasal epithelial" and "smoke" were used to find articles that discussed pathophysiologic effects of tobacco smoke whereas "secondhand smoke" was added to identify articles analyzing the correlation of SHS and CRS. Finally "endoscopic surgery" and "outcomes" were linked to "smoking" to find articles that analyzed the impact of smoking on surgical results.

RESULTS:

We identified 204 articles in the initial search. An additional 72 articles were reviewed for their relevance to the pathophysiologic effects of tobacco smoke while 31 articles were analyzed to determine the correlation of SHS and CRS. Twenty-nine articles were reviewed to analyze the impact of smoking on surgical results.

CONCLUSION:

There is clear evidence in the literature that cigarette smoke, either through active smoking or passive exposure to SHS, correlates to CRS. Recent prospective studies suggest that active smoking is not a contraindication to ESS, whereas the impact of smoke volume and long-term smoking after ESS has not been sufficiently evaluated.

<http://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/10.1002/alr.21054/abstract>

<http://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/10.1002/alr.21054/pdf>

Note: Open Access. Full text PDF freely available from link immediately above.

12.11.2012

Mucocutaneous complications of smoking cessation therapies

[J Am Acad Dermatol.](#) 2012 Jun 14. [Epub ahead of print]

[Ladizinski B](#), [Lee KC](#).

Abstract

Despite widespread knowledge of the morbidity and mortality associated with smoking, this addictive practice continues to be prevalent throughout the United States, as about one-fifth of the population smokes cigarettes. Because of the financial burden and the significant psychosocial and health implications of smoking, many individuals are now attempting to quit, and often using a variety of type of pharmacotherapy for assistance. Given that dermatologists will likely encounter patients using smoking cessation aids, it is important to be aware of their potential mucocutaneous adverse effects. We present a brief review of the dermatologic complications associated with smoking cessation therapies. Hopefully, this article will also remind dermatologists to encourage smoking cessation at every visit.

<http://www.eblue.org/article/S0190-9622%2812%2900536-1/abstract>
<http://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/pii/S0190962212005361>

Does staying in school (and not working) prevent teen smoking and drinking?

[J Health Econ.](#) 2012 May 23;31(4):644-657. [Epub ahead of print]

[Jensen R](#), [Lleras-Muney A](#).

Abstract

Previous work suggests but cannot prove that education improves health behaviors. We exploit a randomized intervention that increased schooling (and reduced working) among male students in the Dominican Republic, by providing information on the benefits of schooling. We find that treated youths were much less likely to smoke at age 18 and had delayed onset of daily or regular drinking. The effects appear to be due to changes in peer networks and disposable income. We find no evidence of a direct effect of schooling on rates of time preference, attitudes towards risk or perceptions that drinking or smoking are harmful to health, though measures of these factors are more limited.

<http://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/pii/S0167629612000586>

Effectiveness of a web-based multiple tailored smoking cessation program: a randomized controlled trial among adult smokers

[J Med Internet Res.](#) 2012 Jun 11;14(3):e82.

[Smit ES](#), [de Vries H](#), [Hoving C](#).

Abstract**BACKGROUND:**

Distributing a multiple computer-tailored smoking cessation intervention through the Internet has several advantages for both sender and receiver. Most important, a large audience of smokers can be reached while a highly individualized and personal form of communication can be maintained. However, such a smoking cessation program has yet to be developed and implemented in the Netherlands.

OBJECTIVE:

To investigate the effects of a Web-based multiple computer-tailored smoking cessation program on smoking cessation outcomes.

a sample of Dutch adult smokers.

METHODS:

Smokers were recruited from December 2009 to June 2010 by advertising our study in the mass media and on the Internet. 711 interested and motivated to quit smoking within 6 months (N = 1123) were randomly assigned to either the experimental (n = 571) or control group (n = 552). Respondents in the experimental group received the fully automated Web-based smoking cessation program while respondents in the control group received no intervention. After 6 weeks and after 6 months, we assessed the effect of intervention on self-reported 24-hour point prevalence abstinence, 7-day point prevalence abstinence, and prolonged abstinence using logistic regression analyses.

RESULTS:

Of the 1123 respondents, 449 (40.0%) completed the 6-week follow-up questionnaire and 291 (25.9%) completed the 6-month follow-up questionnaire. We used a negative scenario to replace missing values. That is, we considered respondents lost to follow-up as continuing to smoke. The computer-tailored program appeared to have significantly increased 24-hour point prevalence abstinence (OR [OR] 1.85, 95% confidence interval [CI] 1.30-2.65), 7-day point prevalence abstinence (OR 2.17, 95% CI 1.44-3.27), and prolonged abstinence (OR 1.99, 95% CI 1.28-3.09) rates reported after 6 weeks. After 6 months, however, no intervention effects could be identified. Results from complete-case analyses were similar.

CONCLUSIONS:

The results presented suggest that the Web-based computer-tailored smoking cessation program had a significant effect on abstinence reported after a 6-week period. At the 6-month follow-up, however, no intervention effects could be identified. This was explained by the replacement of missing values on the primary outcome measures due to attrition using a negative scenario. When results were similar when using a less conservative scenario (ie, complete-case analyses), the results should still be interpreted with caution. Further research should aim at identifying strategies that will prevent high attrition in the first place and, subsequently, identify the best strategies for dealing with missing data when studies have high attrition rates.

TRIAL REGISTRATION:

Dutch Trial Register NTR1351; <http://www.trialregister.nl/trialreg/admin/rctview.asp?TC=1351> (Archived by WebCite at <http://www.webcitation.org/67egSTWrz>).

<http://www.jmir.org/2012/3/e82/>

Note: Open Access. Full text html freely available from link immediately above.

Association of functional COMT Val108/Met polymorphism with smoking cessation in a nicotine replacement therapy trial

[J Neural Transm.](#) 2012 Jun 14. [Epub ahead of print]

[Sun H](#), [Guo S](#), [Chen D](#), [Yang F](#), [Zou Y](#), [Di X](#), [Cao Y](#), [Kosten T](#), [Lu L](#), [Zhang XY](#).

Abstract

Nicotine replacement treatment (NRT) can be efficacious for smoking cessation, but used by only a minority of smokers in China. Pharmacogenetic matching may improve treatment outcomes for NRT in subgroups of smokers. We evaluated the efficacy and safety of sublingual nicotine tablets (SNT) for smoking cessation and the association of catechol-O-methyltransferase (COMT) genotype with efficacy in this smoking cessation trial among Chinese smokers. We conducted a double-blind, placebo-controlled, 8-week trial of SNT with a follow-up at week 12 among 250 Chinese smokers. Efficacy and safety were evaluated at day 4 and weeks 2, 4, and 12. Abstinence was biochemically verified by exhaled carbon monoxide (CO) and urine cotinine. The COMT Val108/Met polymorphism was determined as a restriction fragment length polymorphism. Our results showed that the success rates for complete abstinence were greater for active versus placebo treatments at 8 weeks (48 vs. 17 %) and 12 weeks (52 vs. 19 %) (both $p < 0.0001$). Craving was significantly reduced from week 2 on active treatment compared to placebo. Adverse events were mild and tolerable. We found a significant genotype by treatment interaction at 12 weeks with greater abstinence rates in the COMT Val/Val (50 vs. 15 %) than the Met/Met genotypes (46 vs. 25 %). We found that SNT significantly increased smoking abstinence, reduced craving and was well tolerated, and the COMT Val/Val genotype was associated with a greater improvement in smoking cessation.

<http://www.springerlink.com/content/9r21680162741w33/>

Cigarette smoking and age of menopause: A large prospective study

[Maturitas](#). 2012 Jun 11. [Epub ahead of print]

[Hayatbakhsh MR](#), [Clavarino A](#), [Williams GM](#), [Sina M](#), [Najman JM](#).

Abstract

OBJECTIVES:

One of the possible consequences of tobacco consumption is that it contributes to an earlier age of menopause, though the relationship is yet to be confirmed. This study aimed to examine the prospective association between smoking and earlier age of menopause in a cohort of middle age Australian women after adjustment for a number of potential confounders.

STUDY DESIGN:

21-Year follow-up of a cohort prospective study, Brisbane, Australia.

MAIN OUTCOME MEASURES:

Age of menopause measured at the 21-year follow-up. Smoking and menopausal status were assessed by self-report. Other covariates were measured prospectively in the previous follow-ups.

RESULTS:

This study is based on 3545 women who provided data on their menopausal status at the 21-year follow-up of the study, and prospective as well as concurrent data on smoking. In univariate analysis tobacco smoking during the reproductive life course, economic status and gravidity were significantly associated with earlier age of menopause. In multivariate analyses women who smoked cigarettes were more likely to experience earlier menopause than non-smokers. Compared to current smokers, risk of earlier menopause was significantly lower in those women who quit smoking in the past.

CONCLUSIONS:

The data suggest that the impact of smoking is independent of other covariates associated with both smoking and age of menopause. The findings raise the possibility that effective quit smoking interventions may lead to a later age of menopause and reduce the risk of adverse health consequences of early menopause.

<http://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/pii/S0378512212001855>

Letters

Nicotine replacement therapy: evidence from observational studies versus clinical trials

Med J Aust 2012; 197 (1): 28.

Simon Chapman

TO THE EDITOR: George, who has received a research grant from Pfizer on smoking cessation, makes the manifestly incorrect statement "there is no evidence for the effectiveness of cold turkey cessation, especially in moderate to heavy smokers". In fact, it has always been the case that the most common method used by ex-smokers in their final successful attempt to quit is cold turkey...

Before the introduction of NRT over 20 years ago, the American Cancer Society estimated that "over 90% of the estimated 37 million people who have stopped smoking in this country since the Surgeon General's first report linking smoking to cancer have done so unaided". Recent research has concluded that the advent of smoking cessation pharmacotherapies has not translated into increased rates of cessation in the population.

<https://www.mja.com.au/journal/2012/197/1/nicotine-replacement-therapy-evidence-observational-studies-versus-clinical>

Author's MJA correspondence & reply:

Nicotine replacement therapy: evidence from observational studies versus clinical trials

<https://www.mja.com.au/journal/2012/197/1/nicotine-replacement-therapy-evidence-observational-studies-versus-clinical-0>

<https://www.mja.com.au/journal/2012/196/6/nicotine-replacement-therapy-evidence-observational-studies-versus-clinical>

Referenced BMJ study:

A prospective cohort study challenging the effectiveness of population-based medical intervention for smoking cessation

<http://tobaccocontrol.bmj.com/content/early/2012/01/03/tobaccocontrol-2011-050129.abstract>

Also:

The tobacco industry and Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people

<https://www.mja.com.au/journal/2012/197/1/tobacco-industry-and-aboriginal-and-torres-strait-islander-people>

An intensive smoking intervention for pregnant Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander women: a randomised controlled trial

<https://www.mja.com.au/journal/2012/197/1/intensive-smoking-intervention-pregnant-aboriginal-and-torres-strait-islander>

Nicotine as a potential neuroprotective agent for Parkinson's disease

Mov Disord. 2012 Jun 12. doi: 10.1002/mds.25028. [Epub ahead of print]

[Quik M](#), [Perez XA](#), [Bordia T](#).

Abstract

Converging research efforts suggest that nicotine and other drugs that act at nicotinic acetylcholine receptors (nAChRs) may be beneficial in the management of Parkinson's disease. This idea initially stemmed from the results of epidemiological studies demonstrated that smoking is associated with a decreased incidence of Parkinson's disease. The subsequent finding that nicotine administration protected against nigrostriatal damage in parkinsonian animal models led to the idea that nicotine in tobacco may contribute to this apparent protective action. Nicotine most likely exerts its effects by interacting at nAChRs. Accumulating research indicates that multiple subtypes containing nAChRs, including $\alpha 4\beta 2$, $\alpha 6\beta 2$, and/or $\alpha 7$, may be involved. Stimulation of nAChRs initially activates various intracellular transduction pathways primarily via alterations in calcium signaling. Consequently, adaptations in immune responsiveness and trophic factors may ultimately mediate nicotine's ability to reduce/halt the neuronal damage that arises in Parkinson's disease. In addition to a potential neuroprotective action, nicotine also has antidepressant properties and improves attention/cognition. Altogether, these findings suggest that nicotine and nAChR drugs represent potential therapeutic agents for the management of Parkinson's disease.

<http://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/10.1002/mds.25028/abstract>

Environmental risk factors for REM sleep behavior disorder: A multicenter case-control study

Neurology WNL.0b013e31825dd383; published ahead of print June 27, 2012

R.B. Postuma, J.Y. Montplaisir, A. Pelletier, Y. Dauvilliers, W. Oertel, A. Iranzo, L. Ferini-Strambi, I. Arnulf, B. Hogl, R. Maruyama, G. Mayer, K. Stiasny-Kolster, M. Puligheddu, Y. Ju, P. Jennum, K. Sonka, J. Santamaria, M.L. Fantini, M. Zucconi, S. Leu-Semenescu, B. Frauscher, M. Terzaghi, M. Miyamoto, M.M. Unger, C. Cochen De Cock, and C. Wolfson

Abstract

Objective: Idiopathic REM sleep behavior disorder is a parasomnia characterized by dream enactment and is commonly a prediagnostic sign of parkinsonism and dementia. Since risk factors have not been defined, we initiated a multicenter case-control study to assess environmental and lifestyle risk factors for REM sleep behavior disorder.

Methods: Cases were patients with idiopathic REM sleep behavior disorder who were free of dementia and parkinsonism, recruited from 13 International REM Sleep Behavior Disorder Study Group centers. Controls were matched according to age and sex. Environmental and lifestyle risk factors were assessed via standardized questionnaire. Unconditional logistic regression adjusting for age, sex, and center was conducted to investigate the environmental factors.

Results: A total of 694 participants (347 patients, 347 controls) were recruited. Among cases, mean age was 67.7 ± 9.6 years, 81.0% were male. Cases were more likely to smoke (ever smokers = 64.0% vs 55.5%, adjusted odds ratio [OR] = 1.43, $p = 0.037$). Caffeine and alcohol use were not different between cases and controls. Cases were more likely to report previous head injury (19.7% vs 12.7%, OR = 1.59, $p = 0.037$). Cases had fewer years of formal schooling (11.1 ± 4.4 years vs 12.7 ± 4.3 , $p < 0.001$), and more likely to report having worked as farmers (19.7% vs 12.5% OR = 1.67, $p = 0.022$) with borderline increase in welding (1

12.1%, OR = 1.53, $p = 0.063$). Previous occupational pesticide exposure was more prevalent in cases than controls (11.8% OR = 2.16, $p = 0.008$).

Conclusions: Smoking, head injury, pesticide exposure, and farming are potential risk factors for idiopathic REM sleep behavior disorder.

<http://www.neurology.org/content/early/2012/06/27/WNL.0b013e31825dd383.abstract>

Related *Neuro* Editorial, news coverage & PR:

Hiding in plain sight: Risk factors for REM sleep behavior disorder

<http://www.neurology.org/content/early/2012/06/27/WNL.0b013e31825dd3c0.extract>

Smoking, pesticides boosts risk for 'acting-out-dreams' sleep disorder: study - Edmonton Journal/CP

<http://www.edmontonjournal.com/health/Smoking+pesticides+boosts+risk+acting+dreams+sleep+disorder+study/6855034/>

Kicking or Punching During Sleep May Be Caused by Smoking, Head Injury and Pesticide Use

<http://www.sciencedaily.com/releases/2012/06/120628130536.htm>

Prevalence and concordance of smoking among mothers and fathers within the Pacific Islands Families Study

[Pac Health Dialog](#). 2011 Sep;17(2):136-46.

[Tautolo el-S](#), [Schluter PJ](#), [Taylor S](#).

Abstract

Cigarette smoking continues to contribute to the adverse mortality and morbidity rates for Pacific people in New Zealand. Using a large cohort study of Pacific families, this paper investigates the prevalence of smoking amongst Pacific mothers and fathers at three time-points, up to six years after the arrival of their child, to determine the concordance of both partners' reports of that smoking. Moreover, the patterns of smoking between partners were investigated over the three major Pacific ethnicities that reside in New Zealand (Samoan, Tongan and Cook Island Māori). Maternal self-report prevalence of smoking estimates ranged from 20.1% (2-year) to 33.6% (6-years). Paternal self-reported prevalence of smoking estimates were higher, and ranged from 37.9% (2-year) to 45.2% (6-years). The prevalence estimates for smoking in both mothers and fathers over all three measurement waves were higher than the 26.9% reported for Pacific people in the 2006/07 New Zealand Health Survey. No significant change in fathers' smoking prevalence over time was observed ($p = 0.37$); however a significant increase in mothers' smoking prevalence over time was observed ($p = 0.002$). Significantly, for about 25% of Pacific children both their parents were current smokers. Reducing infant exposure to tobacco smoke, by encouraging parents to quit smoking or banning smoking in the home and local environment (such as in public places) is likely to bring about improved health outcomes for many Pacific children. Findings suggest that the interaction between partners should be considered rather than focusing on mothers' or fathers' smoking behaviour in isolation.

<http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed/22675810>

<http://www.pacifichealthdialog.org.fj/>

Professional training to reduce children's exposure to second-hand smoke in the home: evidence-based considerations on targeting and content

[Perspect Public Health](#). 2012 May;132(3):135-43.

[Gordon J](#), [Friel B](#), [McGranachan M](#).

Abstract

AIMS:

Proponents of theory-based evaluations argue that the type of evidence needed by public health decision-makers is not simply whether interventions work or not. A more fruitful approach is to understand the contexts and circumstances associated with effectiveness. This article aims: to firstly understand factors influencing professionals' practice following their participation in interventions that aimed to reduce children's exposure to second-hand smoke (SHS) in the home via increased usage of brief interventions; secondly to consider the implications of these factors for improving the skills of a diverse workforce.

METHODS:

Questionnaires were issued to the 231 participants pre- and post-training and at three-month follow-up. Four focus groups and interviews were run with 16 people who had attended the training in the previous four to eight months and who performed a wide range of professional roles, reflecting the diversity of those trained.

RESULTS:

The three-month follow-up data indicated that some, but not all, participants had engaged in components of the brief intervention and changed their practice. This difference was largely explained by professional role. Those working in a health-visiting role or those considered better placed to support families through a process of restricting SHS exposure in the home. Triangulated data also indicated that these professionals more often practised elements of the brief intervention. There was also some evidence that the training did not equip participants with the full range of information they wanted, or with the skills that they felt that they needed.

CONCLUSIONS:

Decisions on who to target for training need to be informed by an understanding of the contexts in which professionals work and opportunities and constraints within these. Those working in a health-visiting team are credible message carriers, have opportunities to develop a relationship with families, and can be well placed to provide families with sustained support. To do so, they need messages on precisely how to reduce exposure. In addition, they need the skills to support families through a process of change.

<http://rsh.sagepub.com/content/132/3/135.abstract>

Lower but not higher doses of transdermal nicotine facilitate cognitive performance in smokers on gender non-preferred tasks

[Pharmacol Biochem Behav.](#) 2012 Jun 9. [Epub ahead of print]

[Poltavski DV](#), [Petros TV](#), [Holm JE](#).

Abstract

One of the most widely used treatments for smoking cessation is nicotine replacement therapy (NRT). There is some evidence that smokers experience abstinence-induced deficits in cognitive function, which are attenuated by NRTs. Additionally it's been suggested that the degree of reversal of cognitive deficits may depend on the NRT dose and the smoker's gender. In the present placebo-controlled study we investigated effects of three doses of transdermal nicotine (7mg, 14mg and 21mg) on cognitive performance in 48 male and 48 female smokers after overnight abstinence and 6h of patch application. Cognitive tasks used in the study included Conners' CPT, emotional Stroop, mental arithmetic, and verbal recall of affective prose passages. The results showed greater probability of attentional problems in the male sample compared to females as identified by the Conners' CPT. Within gender, males showed improved performance in the 7mg and 14mg conditions on several measures of the Conners' CPT, and faster hit reaction times on the emotional Stroop test compared to women in the placebo and 21mg of nicotine groups. Conversely, males showed an overall advantage on the mental arithmetic task and were differentially sensitive to nicotine treatment on the prose recall task, with the greatest improvement in recall of affective material observed for the 14mg group compared to the 21mg group. These results are explained on the basis of an inverted U-shaped relationship between nicotinic stimulation and cognitive performance, as well as greater sensitivity to nicotine dose manipulation on gender non-preferred cognitive tasks.

<http://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/pii/S0091305712001517>

The effect of smoking on early chorionic villous vascularisation

[Placenta.](#) 2012 Jun 12. [Epub ahead of print]

[van Oppenraaij RH](#), [Koning AH](#), [van den Hoff MJ](#), [van der Spek PJ](#), [Stegers EA](#), [Exalto N](#).

Abstract

The aim of the study was to investigate whether first trimester chorionic villous vascularisation is different in women who smoked cigarettes before and during pregnancy in comparison with women who did not smoke. Placentas of smoking (>10 cigarettes per day; n = 13) and non-smoking women (n = 13), scheduled for a legal termination of a viable first trimester pregnancy for social indications, were examined.

were retrieved. Placental tissues of 3-5 mm(3) were whole mount CD31 immunofluorescence stained. Images of the CD31 immunofluorescence and contour of the villi were captured using an Optical Projection Tomography scanner. An immersive E virtual reality system was used to create an enlarged interactive 3-dimensional hologram of the reconstructed images. Automated volume measurements were performed using a flexible and robust segmentation algorithm that is based on a region-growing in combination with a neighbourhood variation threshold. The villous volume, vascular volume and vascular density were measured for the total chorionic villous tree as well as for its central and peripheral parts. No differences in maternal age and gestational age were found between non-smoking and smoking women. No differences were found in the total, central and peripheral villous tree volume and vascular volume. The central (13.4% vs. 9.5%, $p=0.03$) and peripheral (8.4% vs. 6.4%, $p=0.02$) villous tree vascular density were increased in the smoking women as compared with the non-smoking women. In conclusion, chorionic villous vascularisation was already altered in first trimester of pregnancy in women who smoked cigarettes before and during pregnancy.

<http://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/pii/S0143400412002068>

Tobacco Industry Manipulation of Tobacco Excise and Tobacco Advertising Policies in the Czech Republic: An Analysis of Tobacco Industry Documents

PLoS Med 9(6): e1001248. doi:10.1371/journal.pmed.1001248

Published: June 26, 2012

Risako Shirane, Katherine Smith, Hana Ross, Karin E. Silver, Simon Williams, Anna Gilmore

Abstract

Background

The Czech Republic has one of the poorest tobacco control records in Europe. This paper examines transnational tobacco companies' (TTCs') efforts to influence policy there, paying particular attention to excise policies, as high taxes are one of the most effective means of reducing tobacco consumption, and tax structures are an important aspect of TTC competitiveness.

Methods and Findings

TTC documents dating from 1989 to 2004/5 were retrieved from the Legacy Tobacco Documents Library website, analysed using a socio-historical approach, and triangulated with key informant interviews and secondary data. The documents demonstrate significant industry influence over tobacco control policy. Philip Morris (PM) ignored, overturned, and weakened various attempts to restrict tobacco advertising, promoting voluntary approaches as an alternative to binding legislation. PM and British American Tobacco lobbied separately on tobacco tax *structures*, each seeking to implement the structure that benefitted its own brand portfolio over that of its competitors, and enjoying success in turn. On excise *levels*, the different companies took a far more collaborative approach, seeking to keep tobacco taxes low and specifically to prevent any large tax increases. Collective lobbying, using a variety of arguments, was successful in delaying the tax increases required via European Union accession. Contrary to industry arguments, data show that cigarettes became more affordable post-accession and that TTCs have taken advantage of low excise duties by raising prices. Interview data suggest that TTCs enjoy high-level political support and continue to actively attempt to influence policy.

Conclusion

There is clear evidence of past and ongoing TTC influence over tobacco advertising and excise policy. We conclude that this helps explain the country's weak tobacco control record. The findings suggest there is significant scope for tobacco tax increases in the Czech Republic and that large (rather than small, incremental) increases are most effective in reducing smoking.

<http://www.plosmedicine.org/article/info%3Adoi%2F10.1371%2Fjournal.pmed.1001248>

Note: Open Access. Full text PDF freely available from link immediately above.

Related coverage:

Research uncovers tobacco companies' tactics to undermine tobacco control in Czech Republic

<http://medicalxpress.com/news/2012-06-uncovers-tobacco-companies-tactics-undermine.html>

The Reference Group Perspective for Smoking Cessation: An Examination of the Influence of Social Norms and Identification With Reference Groups on Smoking Cessation Self-Efficacy

Psychology of Addictive Behaviors, Jun 25, 2012

Phua, Joe J.

Abstract

This study proposed the Reference Group Perspective for smoking cessation, examining smokers' identification with three reference groups: best friends, colleagues, and family members, and hypothesizing that identification with each group would moderate the relationship between injunctive and descriptive norms of the group and smoking cessation self-efficacy. Results of an online questionnaire (N = 208) indicated that injunctive and descriptive norms of all three reference groups significantly affected smoking cessation self-efficacy, and this relationship was moderated by identification. Injunctive norms were stronger in predicting smoking cessation self-efficacy than descriptive norms, with injunctive norms of family members and descriptive norms of best friends having the most significant effect. Positive attitude toward smoking was also significantly associated with smoking cessation self-efficacy.

<http://psycnet.apa.org/psycinfo/2012-16656-001/>

Also:

Adolescent Brain Development, Substance Use, and Psychotherapeutic Change

<http://psycnet.apa.org/psycinfo/2012-16655-001/>

The causal role of smoking in anxiety and depression: a Mendelian randomization analysis of the HUNT study

[Psychol Med.](#) 2012 Jun 12:1-9. [Epub ahead of print]

[Bjørngaard JH](#), [Gunnell D](#), [Elvestad MB](#), [Smith GD](#), [Skorpen F](#), [Krokan H](#), [Vatten L](#), [Romundstad P](#).

Abstract

BACKGROUND:

Cigarette smoking is strongly associated with mental illness but the causal direction of the association is uncertain. We investigated the causal relationship between smoking and symptoms of anxiety and depression in the Norwegian HUNT study using the rs1051730 single nucleotide polymorphism (SNP) variant located in the nicotine acetylcholine receptor gene cluster on chromosome 15 as an instrumental variable for smoking phenotypes. Among smokers, this SNP is robustly associated with smoking quantity and nicotine dependence. In total, 53 601 participants were genotyped for the rs1051730 SNP and provided information on smoking habits and symptoms of anxiety and depression using the Hospital Anxiety and Depression Scale (HADS).

RESULTS:

Self-reported smoking was positively associated with the prevalence of both anxiety and depression, and the measured rs1051730 polymorphism was positively associated with being a current smoker and the number of cigarettes smoked in the current smoking sample as a whole, risk of anxiety increased with each affected T allele [odds ratio (OR) 1.06, 95% confidence interval (CI) 1.01-1.11, p=0.002] but there was no association with depression (p=0.31). However, we found no clear association of the polymorphism with either anxiety (OR 1.03, 95% CI 0.97-1.09, p=0.34) or depression (OR 1.02, 95% CI 0.95-1.09, p=0.62) among smokers.

CONCLUSIONS:

As there was no association of the smoking-related rs1051730 SNP with anxiety and depression among smokers, the results suggest that smoking is not a cause of anxiety and depression.

<http://journals.cambridge.org/action/displayAbstract?fromPage=online&aid=8607473>

Effects of acute nicotine on auditory change-related cortical responses

12.11.2012

[Psychopharmacology \(Berl\)](#). 2012 Jun 17. [Epub ahead of print]

[Otsuru N](#), [Tsuruhara A](#), [Motomura E](#), [Tanii H](#), [Nishihara M](#), [Inui K](#), [Kakigi R](#).

Abstract

RATIONALE AND OBJECTIVE:

Nicotine is known to have enhancing effects on some aspects of attention and cognition. The purpose of the present study was to elucidate the effects of nicotine on pre-attentive change-related cortical activity.

METHODS:

Change-related cortical activity in response to an abrupt increase (3 dB) and decrease (6 dB) in sound pressure in a continuous sound was recorded by using magnetoencephalography. Nicotine was administered with a nicotine gum (4 mg of nicotine). Eighteen healthy nonsmokers were tested with a double-blind and placebo-controlled design. Effects of nicotine on the main component of the onset response peaking at around 50 ms (P50m) and the main component of the change-related response at around 120 ms (Change-N1m) were investigated.

RESULTS:

Nicotine failed to affect P50m, while it significantly increased the amplitude of Change-N1m evoked by both auditory changes. The magnitude of the amplitude increase was similar among subjects regardless of the magnitude of the baseline response, which resulted in the percent increase of Change-N1m being greater for subjects with Change-N1m of smaller amplitude.

CONCLUSIONS:

Since Change-N1m represents a pre-attentive automatic process to encode new auditory events, the present results suggest that nicotine can exert beneficial cognitive effects without a direct impact on attention.

<http://www.springerlink.com/content/p184217317556773/>

Also:

Galantamine attenuates some of the subjective effects of intravenous nicotine and improves performance on a Go No-Go task in abstinent cigarette smokers: a preliminary report

<http://www.springerlink.com/content/m7248966116h33m2/>

Perinatal Nicotine Exposure Increases Vulnerability of Hypoxic–Ischemic Brain Injury in Neonatal Rats: Role of Angiotensin II Receptors

Stroke published 26 June 2012, 10.1161/STROKEAHA.112.664698

Yong Li, Daliao Xiao, Chiranjib Dasgupta, Fuxia Xiong, Wenni Tong, Shumei Yang, and Lubo Zhang

Abstract

Background and Purpose—Maternal cigarette smoking increases the risk of neonatal morbidity. We tested the hypothesis that perinatal nicotine exposure causes heightened brain vulnerability to hypoxic–ischemic (HI) injury in neonatal rats through altered expression patterns of angiotensin II type 1 (AT₁R) and type 2 (AT₂R) receptors in the developing brain.

Methods—Nicotine was administered to pregnant rats through subcutaneous osmotic minipumps. HI brain injury was determined in 10-day-old pups. AT₁R and AT₂R expression patterns were assessed through Western blotting, quantitative polymerase chain reaction, immunofluorescence, and confocal imaging.

Results—Perinatal nicotine exposure significantly increased HI brain infarct size in male, but not female, pups. In fetal brain, nicotine caused a decrease in mRNA and protein abundance of AT₂R but not AT₁R. The downregulation of AT₂R persisted in male pups, and nicotine treatment resulted in a significant increase in methylation of CpG locus 3 bases upstream of the AT₂R gene promoter. In female brains, there was an increase in AT₂R but a decrease in AT₁R expression. Both AT₁R and AT₂R were expressed in neurons but not in astrocytes in the cortex and hippocampus. Central application of AT₁R antagonist losartan or AT₂R antagonist PD123319 increased HI brain infarct size in both male and female pups. In male pups, AT₂R agonist CGP42112 increased HI brain infarct size.

nicotine-induced increase in HI brain infarction. In females, PD123319 uncovered the nicotine's effect on HI brain infarction.

Conclusion—Perinatal nicotine exposure causes epigenetic repression of the AT₂R gene in the developing brain resulting in heightened brain vulnerability to HI injury in neonatal male rats in a sex-dependent manner.

<http://stroke.ahajournals.org/cgi/content/abstract/STROKEAHA.112.664698v1>

Smoking, acute mountain sickness and altitude acclimatisation: a cohort study

Thorax. 2012 Jun 14. [Epub ahead of print]

[Wu TY](#), [Ding SQ](#), [Liu JL](#), [Jia JH](#), [Chai ZC](#), [Dai RC](#), [Zhao JZ](#), [De Tang Q](#), [Kayser B](#).

Abstract

RATIONALE:

The relationship between cigarette smoking and acute mountain sickness (AMS) is not clear.

OBJECTIVE:

To assess AMS risk and altitude acclimatisation in relation to smoking.

METHODS:

200 healthy non-smokers and 182 cigarette smokers were recruited from Han lowland workers. These were men without prior exposure, matched for age, health status and occupation, who were transported to an altitude of 4525 masl.

MEASUREMENTS:

AMS, smoking habits, arterial saturation (SpO₂), haemoglobin (Hb), lung function and mean pulmonary artery pressure (P_m) were assessed upon arrival and after 3 and 6 months.

MAIN RESULTS:

Compared with non-smokers, smokers had a lower incidence of AMS and lower AMS scores than non-smokers upon arrival; Hb and PAP_m associated with lower SpO₂ at 3 and 6 months at altitude; and lower forced expiratory volume in 1 s and maximal voluntary ventilation at 3 and 6 months.

CONCLUSIONS:

Smoking slightly decreases the risk of AMS but impairs long-term altitude acclimatisation and lung function during a prolonged stay at high altitude.

<http://thorax.bmj.com/content/early/2012/06/13/thoraxjnl-2011-200623.abstract>

Also:

The association between tobacco and the risk of asthma, rhinoconjunctivitis and eczema in children and adolescents: analysis of Phase Three of the ISAAC programme

<http://thorax.bmj.com/content/early/2012/06/11/thoraxjnl-2011-200901.abstract>

Dynamics of smoking prevalence and tobacco products market in Belarus

Tobacco Control and Public Health in Eastern Europe, 2(1), 9-16.

Konstantin S. Krasovsky

Abstract

BACKGROUND: In 2005, Belarus ratified the WHO Framework Convention on Tobacco Control (FCTC) and then adopted several governmental documents aimed to decrease the population tobacco use. The aim of the paper is to review available data to trends of smoking prevalence and tobacco market in Belarus and to evaluate impact of policies implemented since 2005 on population tobacco use.

METHODS: The explorative study was conducted including online search of data on tobacco use and tobacco market and of the revealed indicators dynamics by year.

RESULTS: Surveys conducted by the National Statistical Committee and by the Institute of Sociology provide rather different smoking rates, especially in women. However, both groups of surveys indicate that in 1995-2011 smoking prevalence in men and women had the opposite trends: an increase among women and a decrease among men. Both groups of surveys also indicate for the adult population in general the current smoking rates were increasing in early 2000s and decreasing in late 2000s, but returned by the end of the decade to the rates observed at its beginning. However, the sales of cigarettes increased by 59% in 2010 and continued to grow in 2011.

DISCUSSION: The differences of smoking prevalence indicators of various survey agencies are caused by differences in sampling interviewing procedure, questionnaires and other methodological features. The tobacco control policies introduced since 2005 resulted in a decrease of total population smoking prevalence by about 5% in 2006-2010. For further tobacco use decline, additional control policies should be implemented in line with the FCTC provisions and guidelines. The steep increase of cigarette sales in Belarus in 2005-2010 cannot be explained by tobacco use increase within the country. A probable cause of sales increase is smuggling of large amounts of Belarus-produced cigarettes to other countries.

<http://andreevin.narod.ru/journal/2012/01/3.htm>

http://andreevin.narod.ru/journal/2012/01/TCPHEE_02_01_Krasovsky.pdf

Also:

Smoking prevalence and its characteristics among the population aged 25-64 years according to the postal surveys of Kiev residents

<http://andreevin.narod.ru/journal/2012/01/4.htm>

http://andreevin.narod.ru/journal/2012/01/TCPHEE_02_01_Kvasha.pdf

Commentary to the article "Smoking prevalence and its characteristics among the population aged 25-64 years according to postal surveys of Kiev residents"

<http://andreevin.narod.ru/journal/2012/01/5.htm>

http://andreevin.narod.ru/journal/2012/01/TCPHEE_02_01_Krasovsky_23.pdf

Tobacco smoking patterns, awareness and expenditure: a cross-sectional overview from Surat City, India

<http://andreevin.narod.ru/journal/2012/01/6.htm>

http://andreevin.narod.ru/journal/2012/01/TCPHEE_02_01_Desai.pdf

Note: Open Access. Full text PDFs freely available from links immediately above. All texts in Russian, except for the paper but the Russian-language texts feature references in English.

Mechanisms for nicotine in the development and progression of gastrointestinal cancers

[Transl Gastrointest Cancer](#). 2012 Apr;1(1):81-87.

[Jensen K](#), [Afroze S](#), [Munshi MK](#), [Guerrier M](#), [Glaser SS](#).

Abstract

Long-term smoking is major risk factor for a variety of cancers, including those of the gastrointestinal (GI) tract. Historically, nicotine and its derivatives are well known for their role in addiction, and have more recently been documented for their carcinogenic role in a number of human cancers. The cellular and molecular pathways activated by nicotine mimic physiological and environmental carcinogenesis in cancers throughout the GI tract potentiating cancer growth and/or inducing the formation of cancer on their own. Thus, it is important to unlock the carcinogenic mechanisms induced by nicotine in these systems, and underscore nicotine's potential as an environmental hazard. This review outlines the specific pathways demonstrated to mediate nicotine's carcinogenic mechanism in the GI tract. The abundance of cell and animal evidence calls for increased epidemiologic and case-control evaluation of nicotine's role in cancer.

<http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC3371638/?tool=pubmed>

<http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC3371638/pdf/nihms367756.pdf>

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